

2 April 1984

TO:

FROM:

History Staff

RE:

Course on "Intelligence Successes and Failures"

Enclosed are two pages of notes on the case study [redacted] and I researched. I'm afraid we really don't have very much for you. We interviewed R. Jack Smith, DDI in 1967, and Sherman Kent, head of ONE in 1967. Neither added appreciably to our knowledge or understanding of the case. In addition,

In addition, I had access to an interview Jack Smith conducted for the History Staff two years ago with Richard Helms. Virtually all of the pertinent material from this interview will appear in the classified history of Richard Helms's tenure as DCI that the History Staff is currently writing. That study will eventually be available for use by Agency personnel, though not in time for your May class.

Sherman Kent suggested [redacted] Jim Cooley, and Chuck [redacted] as individuals who might merit interviews, but we ran out of time and did not pursue this further.

Page 224 of Thomas Powers' The Man Who Kept the Secrets has a bit on this case. But the Freshwater article in Studies in Intelligence (Winter 1969) was infinitely more useful. *

In short, while there well may be additional sources to be tapped, I do not have many useful suggestions for you.

In another vein, I want to repeat my earlier statements concerning the value of your course for my own understanding of the analytical business. Of course I came into the class with something of a different background and objectives from most of the other members. But my expectations were met or surpassed in virtually every respect. You should take pride in a job well done.

Finally, I started reading Daniel Boorstin's The Discoverers over the weekend, and came across an idea which paraphrased might well serve as the motto for your course: THE PRINCIPAL BARRIER TO UNDERSTANDING IS NOT IGNORANCE, BUT THE ILLUSION OF KNOWLEDGE.

Best wishes, and thanks for a profitable and enjoyable 3 weeks.

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I understand
book on it.

is shortly to publish a